



## EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Please tell us a little about yourself so we can see how wide this consultation has been:

Place of Residence:.....

Place of Worship:.....

Marital Status:.....

Age: Under 18 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66-75 76-85 Over 85

In what capacity are you making this response? Please circle all that apply:

Pastor      Lay Person      Parent      Deacon      Professed Religious  
 Catechist      Teacher      Seminarian      Pastoral Assistant      Hospital Chaplain  
 Prison Chaplain      Military Chaplain      Member of Lay Association or Movement\*  
 Other\*

\*Please give further details:.....

If you would like to add your name and contact email please do so at the end when you have finished making your response. Do not feel you have to but it will allow us to contact you if we need to clarify your answers.

Please use as much space as you would like to respond to the questions.

Please return this form to your parish priest or to the Diocesan Office by post to The Diocese of Galloway, 8 Corsehill Road, Ayr KA7 2ST or by email to [administration@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:administration@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

The closing date for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

## Consultation on the Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the context of Evangelisation

Next year Pope Francis has called an “Extraordinary Synod” of Bishops to discuss the Church’s pastoral care for families and the challenges for the Church in responding to changes in family life.

The Holy Father is keen that as many Catholics as possible should have the opportunity to reflect on the issues and have their views and experiences heard by the bishops who will attend next year’s Synod in Rome.

The following questionnaire is based on the Vatican’s own list of questions.

You do not have to answer all the questions. Please feel free to miss out those questions that you do not wish to answer - you can complete as much or as little of the survey as you want.

The Vatican’s full consultation document can be found at <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/41676/320820/file/lineamenta-family-synod-2014.PDF> Further guidance can also be found at <http://www.cbcew.org.uk>

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this consultation. Please return the form to your parish priest or directly to the Diocesan Office by post to The Diocese of Galloway, 8 Corsehill Road, Ayr KA7 2ST or by email to [administration@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:administration@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

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## **About Church Teaching on Marriage and the Family**

1. To what extent is the Church's teaching on Marriage and family life well known and understood?
2. What are the main criticisms of Church teaching in this area?
3. What could the Church do to help people understand her teaching better?

## **The Understanding of Marriage**

Marriage is a natural reality as well as a religious reality

4. What does the term 'natural law' mean for you?
5. What are the main challenges to the Church's belief that marriage between a man and a woman is the basis of family life?
6. Does the Church respond well to non-practising couples who ask to be married?

## **Promoting Marriage and the Family**

7. What can be done to encourage family spirituality and help parents transmit the faith to children?

8. What good practices could be developed to help families see themselves as a 'domestic church'?

9. Does the Church do enough to help couples preparing for Marriage?

10. Does the Church do enough to help couples in difficult marital situations?

11. If you don't think the Church is doing enough in these areas, what would you like to see being done?

## **The Reality of Marriage**

12. How common do you think it is for couples to live together before Marriage?

13. How are people who are divorced and remarried received in their local parish? What particular problems do they face?

14. What could be done to help the divorced and remarried?

15. Do you think people see this as big issues in relation to receiving the Sacraments?

16. Is the process of Marriage Annulment understood?

17. What more could the Church do to help people whose Marriage has failed?

### **Same Sex Unions**

In Scotland, the law permits civil partnerships between people of the same sex and legislation is being considered to allow same-sex Marriage.

18. How should the Church respond to the reality of same sex unions and the potential of future legislation for same sex marriage?

19. What pastoral care should the Church be offering to people in same sex unions and children adopted by same sex parents?

### **Upbringing of children**

20. Does the Church do enough to help parents bring up their children, through religious education and Sacramental preparation?

21. If not, what more could be done?

### **Family Planning**

22. Do people know about the Church's teaching on birth control?

23. Do people understand the difference between natural and artificial means of family planning?

24. How widely do you think the Church's teaching on natural family planning is accepted?

25. Do people consider this a big issue in approaching the Sacraments?

26. What more could the Church do to encourage couples to be open to the joy of new life?

**In conclusion...**

27. How do family problems impact on people's spiritual life and involvement in the Church?

28. What are the most urgent issues facing the Church in her pastoral care for Marriage and the Family?

29. Is there anything you would like to see the Synod of Bishops discuss next year which has not already been covered in these questions?

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Thank you for participating in the consultation. Your opinions are valued.